

January - 2008

# Laramie County FSA News

Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:30

Phone: (307) 772-2314

FAX: (307) 772-2120

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

## Disaster Programs Signup

Signup deadlines for the disaster programs have not been announced, but, we do anticipate a deadline to be announced very soon. Please do not wait to get an appointment to complete an application. There are no late filed provisions. Applications submitted by participants after the end of signup shall be disapproved because they were not filed during the application period.

### Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

LCP compensates livestock producers for pasture and feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits.

***Laramie County meets the disaster declaration requirements for LCP for 2006, so producers will receive LCP Program payments for 2006 only.*** Please call the county office to set up your appointment.

Recently the decision was made to include the value of feed losses (including increased feed costs) from other eligible disaster counties if it is a normal part of the livestock producer's operation to move livestock to other counties during the grazing season as long as those livestock were physically located in an eligible disaster county on the beginning date of an eligible disaster period.

This change allows producers to add additional out of county eligible pastures acreage to their application along with increase feed costs incurred in the eligible disaster county.

Applications are paid on the lesser of a dollar value paid based on cattle numbers or a dollar value based on pasture loss. Most applications are paid on a dollar value based on cattle numbers, so the addition of more pasture or excess feed adds to the pasture value, which does not change the application payment amount.

This office will notify producers that were to be paid on pasture losses on applications already filed and inform them to file a new application.

### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters, including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible. ***Laramie County meets the disaster declaration requirements for 2006 for drought.*** A determination has been made that drought is **not** an eligible disaster event **except** when associated with anthrax, a condition that occurs as a result of drought and results in the death of eligible livestock.

### Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program began October 15, 2007. Program benefits will be based on crop losses incurred in the 2005 / 2006 / 2007 crop years. Applications will be taken by appointment at the County office. Please call for an appointment. Crop loss is covered under this signup and quality losses will be taken in a latter signup.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

## **Farm Program Information**

As of the date of this Newsletter there is not a farm program, so there is no program signup. We will announce farm program information when we are notified.

### Acreage Reports

The FSA Office will take wheat crop reports. Please call the office or stop in to file a crop report for 2008.

### Farm Changes

As always you are required to notify our office of any changes in your farming operation for 2008. Did you buy some new land? Are you renting different land or have your shares changed for 2008? Do you have a new address? Did you form a new entity? Producers are responsible for notifying FSA of any changes regarding your farming operation.

## **Crop Loan / LDP Information**

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. Laramie County 2007 loan rates are: winter wheat - \$2.74/bu, barley - \$1.90/bu, corn - \$2.04/bu, oats - \$1.35/bu, sunflowers - \$8.79/cwt, and spring wheat - \$2.47/bu. Please call the office for more information if you are interested. The loan process does take some time. The office is required to do a lien search, obtain lien waivers from lenders, and file a lien against your crop before a check can be issued.

Both husband and wife must sign the loan document. A notarized or FSA witnessed FSA Power of Attorney Form, FSA-211, may be filed giving the husband and/or wife authority to sign for each other.

Measurement services are available to measure the grain in your storage facility. The cost is \$30 per farm plus \$16 per hour / \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour with a minimum charge of 1 hour. Fees must be paid for the measurement before the loan check can be disbursed. **We strongly recommend that producers get a measurement service to avoid penalties for overstating grain in storage.**

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) will be available if posted county price goes below the loan rate. To date there are no LDP's available.

## **Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders**

If you had NAP coverage in 2007, remember to provide production evidence of the mechanically harvested crops prior to July 1, 2008.

Producers are to report crop losses on NAP crops within 15 days after the disaster event occurred or the date the crop damage was apparent. Late filed notice of loss may be approved if the crop damage is still apparent to the FSA office and the loss was disaster affected.

## **Payments Reported to IRS**

As required by law, FSA must report all program payments, earned by producers, to the Internal Revenue Service. Producers who received payments in 2007 should receive a notice (CCC-1099-G) near the end of January. This notice lists the payment received by program. If you have any questions about your payment amounts, please contact the County FSA Office.

## **2007 Census of Agriculture - TAKE TIME TO BE COUNTED**

The 2007 Census of Agriculture will be mailed out December 28, 2007 to producers across the country. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census covers virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. By filling out the 2007 Census of Agriculture, Wyoming ranchers and farmers are investing in the future of agriculture by providing a strong and unified voice about their needs and concerns. Their responses will provide law makers, government organizations, town planners and individual farm operations with valuable information used to plan for services, facilities and other investments to benefit agriculture and their local communities.

Wyoming producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online through a secure website. Regardless of how they report, producers are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code) that their individual information will be kept **confidential**. Census forms are due February 4, 2008. For more information, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

## **Administrative Information**

### Committee Elections

Elections were held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2. Dave Bowman was elected as a representative of LAA #2 (Pine Bluffs / Carpenter area) and will be the area representative for three years. Dale Martin will be the alternate for the area.

### Signature Authority for Spouses

Husbands and wives may sign documents for each other for programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been submitted to our office. Spouses may not grant a Power of Attorney to another person for each other. Spouses may not sign a promissory note for a commodity loan, a CRP contract, or a debt settlement for each other without an FSA Power of Attorney signed giving them authority.

### Controlled Substance Violations

Persons convicted of planting, cultivating, growing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance in any crop year shall be ineligible for Federal program benefits during the crop year of conviction and the four succeeding crop years.

### Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)

AFIDA requires foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer, or hold a 5 percent or greater interest in agriculture land or who gross \$1000 or more from any agriculture land report this information to the Secretary of Agriculture. The information must be reported with 90 days. This information must be reported to the local FSA office.

### Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairments, or hearing impairment. Please call this office if assistance is needed.

### Direct Deposit Changes

Remember to notify FSA if you have changed bank accounts or your bank ownership has changed. Payments are made by direct deposit to the bank account FSA has on file. Payments are delayed if you have made changes and you have not informed FSA.

## **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) News**

CSP: NRCS has been given the approval to pay all 2008 Conservation Security Program (CSP) payments before February 1, 2008. If you have a CSP contract and have not provided the needed documents for certification, you need to do so ASAP. Please contact the NRCS if you have questions or would like to make an appointment to certify your planned enhancements for 2008 CSP.

The new Farm Bill currently has the makings of a new expanded CSP. If this Bill passes, and funds are appropriated, you may want to be prepared to qualify for the program. In the past, the surest qualifiers were: good record keeping, good grazing management, streams protected from continual livestock access and soil tests with fertilizer applied according to agronomic recommendations. A resource management plan on your entire operation would provide an excellent base for setting up a CSP plan. NRCS can help you develop a resource management plan, which will address all of your resource concerns and possibly give you some new ideas to reach your goals.

EQIP: Laramie County has selected Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications which will be funded for FY 2008. A total of 14 applications will receive portions of the \$286,000 allocated to Laramie County this year. Applications not funded will be deferred to next year. EQIP sign-up is ongoing. Applications are batched once a year and ranked for funding selection. If you have resource concerns needing addressed, please talk to your NRCS conservationist and see if you qualify for EQIP

For more information on NRCS programs go to: <http://www.wy.nrcs.gov/programs/index.html>

## **Southeast Wyoming Farm & Crop Expo**

The Expo is to be held Tuesday February 12, 2008 at the Albin Community Center in Albin, Wyoming starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be exhibitors and speakers. Free admission, trade show, lunch and door prizes.

**USDA / FSA**  
**Laramie County FSA Committee**  
**11221A U.S. Highway 30**  
**Cheyenne WY 82009 8730**

**PRSRT STD**  
**Postage Fees Paid**  
**Farm Service Agency**  
**Permit No. G-96**

### **Wind Energy Seminar**

A seminar, focusing on forming wind energy co-ops and the legal issues involved, will be held January 24<sup>th</sup>. The program will be sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Laramie County Conservation District, and the Southeast Wyoming RC&D. It will be held at the Pine Bluffs Community Center from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to LCCD at 772-2600 if you are planning on attending.

### **Loans for Social Disadvantaged Persons**

A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA reserves direct and guaranteed loan funds for SDA persons. Non-reserved funds also can be used by SDA persons. Direct farm ownership loans (FO) and farm operating loans (OL) are made by FSA to approved applicants.

### **Dates to Remember**

January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Office Closed
February 18	Presidents Day Holiday – Office Closed

**County Committee:** Mark Child, Dave Bowman, Mike Peterson, **Advisor:** Louise Jacobsen

**Office Staff:** Doris Scheel, Denise Hunt, Mark Lanning, Susan Pierce

/S/ Gary Gompert, CED – Email [gary.gompert@wy.usda.gov](mailto:gary.gompert@wy.usda.gov)

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